

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-1862V

Filed: November 5, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

B.C., a minor, by and through his
parent and natural guardian,
RACHELLE GUCWA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Rotavirus Vaccine; Intussusception

Maximillian J. Muller, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.

Camille Michelle Collett, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On December 1, 2017, Rachelle Gucwa (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² (the “Vaccine Act”) on behalf of her son, B.C. Petitioner alleges that B.C. suffered from intussusception as a result of a rotavirus vaccine he received on July 26, 2016. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

¹ The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services).

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

On June 13, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation. On November 2, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") recommending that the undersigned award the following: an amount sufficient to purchase an annuity contract, paid to the life insurance company from which the annuity will be purchased, subject to the conditions described in the attached proffer, that will provide a certain lump sum payment to B.C. as follows: \$87,504.36 payable in a certain lump sum on May 23, 2034. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer. *Id.*

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards an amount sufficient to purchase an annuity contract, paid to the life insurance company from which the annuity will be purchased, subject to the conditions described in the attached proffer that will provide a certain lump sum payment to B.C. as set forth below:**

\$87,504.36 payable in a certain lump sum on May 23, 2034.

This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a). The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

A. Annuity

An amount sufficient to purchase an annuity contract,² paid to the life insurance company³ from which the annuity will be purchased,⁴ subject to the conditions described below, that will provide a certain lump sum payment to B.C. as set forth below:

\$87,504.36 payable in a certain lump sum on May 23, 2034.

Should B.C. predecease the certain lump sum payment set forth above, said payment shall be made to his estate. Written notice to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and to the Life Insurance Company shall be provided within twenty (20) days of B.C.'s death.

This amount represents all elements of compensation to which B.C. would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.⁵

² In respondent's discretion, respondent may purchase one or more annuity contracts from one or more life insurance companies.

³ The Life Insurance Company must have a minimum of \$250,000,000 capital and surplus, exclusive of any mandatory security valuation reserve. The Life Insurance Company must have one of the following ratings from two of the following rating organizations:

- a. A.M. Best Company: A++, A+, A+g, A+p, A+r, or A+s;
- b. Moody's Investor Service Claims Paying Rating: Aa3, Aa2, Aa1, or Aaa;
- c. Standard and Poor's Corporation Insurer Claims-Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA;
- d. Fitch Credit Rating Company, Insurance Company Claims Paying Ability Rating: AA-, AA, AA+, or AAA.

⁴ Petitioner authorizes the disclosure of certain documents filed by the petitioner in this case consistent with the Privacy Act and the routine uses described in the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program System of Records, No. 09-15-0056.

⁵ At the time payment is received, B.C. will be an adult, and thus guardianship is not required.

II. Summary of Recommended Payments Following Judgment

- A. An amount sufficient to purchase the annuity contract described above in section I. A.

Petitioner agrees with the proffered award as representing all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which B.C. is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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s/Camille M. Collett
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